(a) the steps taken for achieving the goal set for creating 1.5 lakh jobs in two years for Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether any task force has been set up to oversee the work; and

(c) what is the present status on the employment generation front?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) A task Force was set up for creation of one lakh employment/self employment opportunities in Jammu & Kashmir over the next two years. The Task Force has submitted its report and recommended creation of atleast one lakh jobs in various identified sectors during the period 15th August, 2003 to 14th August, 2005. Task Force has recommended monitoring of creation of employment opportunities on a monthly basis.

Vacant posts in North-Eastern Council

*409. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several key posts in the North-Eastern Council have remained vacant for long, causing serious problems in the Council's functioning;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating to overhaul the structure of this Council; if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) whether the developmental targets fixed during the past five years were achieved?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) The details of the 9 Group 'A' posts, out of 26 such posts which are lying vacant in North-Eastern Council (NEC) Secretariat, Shillong, along with the period of vacancies, are given in the Statement (*See* below). Action has been taken to fill up all these posts. Additional charge is given to officers in position to ensure that normal functioning is not seriously impacted on account of this factor.

(b) There is no proposal at present for overhaul of the structure of the Council.

(c) For the Ninth Five-Year Plan period (1997-98 to 2001-02), the expenditure was Rs. 1950.64 crores, against the Budgetary provision of

Rs. 2114 crores. For 2002-03, against the budgetary provision of Rs. 450 crores, there was an expenditure of Rs. 441.51 crores (provisional).

Statement

Details of Group 'A' posts lying vacant in NEC Secretariat, Shillong

Sl. No.	Designation of the post	Vacant w.e.f.
1.	Secretary	July, 2002
2.	Adviser (Health)	July, 2003
3.	Adviser (T&C)	September, 2002
4.	Adviser (Industries & Banking)	August, 2003
5.	Director (S&T)	August, 2003
6.	Superintending Engineer (Civil)	August, 2002
7.	Assistant Secretary	April, 2003
8.	Executive Engineer (Civil)	April, 2003
9.	Research Officer (Planning)	April, 2003

Source: NEC Secretariat, Shillong.

BPL families in Orissa

*410. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to have a regular survey/review of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana Families in Orissa in order to include more eligible families;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to focus on removal of shortcomings in the public distribution system especially in Orissa?